

The Calvin Ball Bulletin

District Two

January 2014 Edition

Inside this issue:

Welcome!

I'm honored to be elected Chair of the County Council! As we are on the brink of celebrating the holidays, I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight events happening in and around your neighborhood so you may stay engaged!

Know of any great community events?

Please share them with me by emailing
cball@howardcountymd.gov.

If you are not already signed up to receive this newsletter, email "subscribe" to
cball@howardcountymd.gov and I will be happy to add you to our distribution list!



Dr. Calvin Ball, District 2

Symphony of Lights	1
Merry Mulch Your Trees	2
MIHU Open Enrollment	2
Housing Rehab Program	2
Holiday Train Garden	3
Watersheds Stewards Academy	3
HCPSS Career Academies	3
Tax ID Theft Forum	3
Audrey Robbins Humanitarian Awards	4
Children on Board Fair	4
FY15 CSP Grants	4
CA Sister Cities Exchange Program	4

Symphony of Lights!



The Symphony of Lights is a spectacular display of 70 larger-than-life, animated and stationary light creations. It's a long-standing community tradition and a "must-see" during the holiday season. This breath-taking display will run through **Sunday, January 6, 2013**, remaining open 7 days a week, **6-10pm** including holidays except closed **December 31st** for the Midnight at 7 event.

The cost is \$20 for cars seating up to eight passengers; 9-24 passengers, \$45, 25 or more, \$125. For more info, call **410-740-7840**.

Happy Holidays – Christmas/New Year Holiday Closings!

While you enjoy a wonderful holiday with family and friends.... Howard County Government announces the following closings:

Government Offices	Closed – Wed, December 25 thru Wed, January 1
Senior Centers	Closed – Wed, December 25 thru Wed, January 1
County Parks	Closed – Wed, December 25; Open – Tues, December 24 and Thurs, December 26 thru Wed, January 1
Historic Sites	Closed – December 24 & 25, Tues, December 31, and Wed, January 1; Open – Thurs, December 26 thru Mon, December 30
Meadowbrook	Closed – Tues, December 24 (Close 5 pm – Open only for scheduled events), Wed, December 25 (Closed), Tues, December 31 (Close 6pm) & Wed, January 1 (Closed); Open – Thurs, December 26 thru Mon, December 30
Athletic Center	No pickup Wednesday, December 25 or Wednesday, January 1; Normal scheduled pick-up Tues, December 24 & Tues, December 31
Trash/Recycling Collection	Slide schedule in effect Thurs, December 26 thru Sat, December 28 & Thurs, January 2 thru Sat, January 4
Landfill	Closed – Wed, December 25 & Wed, January 1; Open, Limited Hours , 8 a.m.- 2 p.m. – Tuesday, December 24; Open, Regular Hours , 8am 4pm – Thurs, December 26 thru Sat, December 28 & Mon, December 30; Open, Limited Hours , 8am- 2pm – Tues, December 31
Courts	Closed – Tues, December 24, Wed, December 25, Tues, December 31 & Wed, January 1; Open – Thurs, December 26, Fri, December 27 & Mon, December 30
Animal Shelter	Closed – Wed, December 25, Wed, January 1, Sat, December 28; Open – Tues, December 24 & Tues, December 31, open 8am-3pm (business hours) & 10am-2:30pm (adoption hours); Open Regular Hours: Thurs, December 26 & Fri, December 27
CMRT/Howard Transit	No Service – Wed, December 25 & Wed, January 1; Regular Service – Tues, December 24 & Thurs, December 26 thru Tues, December 31

For a complete list of opens and closings, including a link to the trash and recycling "slide schedule," click [here](#) or call **410-313-6444**. For Howard Transit, call 1-800-270-9553. The 9-1-1 Center, Police and Fire departments remain staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For emergencies, call 9-1-1; for non-emergencies, please call 410-313-2200.

County offices will re-open at regular business hours on **Thursday, January 2**.

Merry Mulch Your Trees!

As the holiday nears, HC Government wants to remind residents that a variety of FREE Christmas tree recycling options are available through the County’s Merry Mulch program. All collected trees are delivered to a compost facility and recycled into compost and mulch and will run through **Friday, January 17th**. Christmas trees may also be recycled 7 days/week, 7:30am-5pm, at:

- Clarksville:** Kendall Hardware, 12260 Route 108
River Hill Garden Center, 12165 Route 108
- Columbia:** Cedar Lane Park, 5081 Cedar Lane
Grandfather's Garden Center, 5320 Phelps Luck Drive
- Elkridge:** Rockburn Park, 5400 Landing Road
- Ellicott City:** Small Circuit Court parking lot on upper Court House Drive (past Ellicott Mills Drive, on the right)
- Highland:** Schooley Mill Park, 12975 Hall Shop Road
- Marriottsville:** Alpha Ridge Landfill Wood Waste Area, 2350 Marriottsville Road (M-Sat 8-4pm)
- Savage:** Savage Park, 8400 Fair Street
- Woodbine:** Western Regional Park, 14800 Carrs Mill Road



Residents with curbside yard trim collection may also set their trees out on their collection day beginning **January 2-17**. Trees will not be picked up on trash collection days. All decorations, including tinsel, garland, ornaments, lights, tree stands, plastic bags, etc. must be removed. Trees must also be cut into less than four foot lengths and tied; they do not need to be bagged. Each bundle must weigh less than 40lbs.

After January 17, residents may continue to bring their Christmas trees to the Alpha Ridge Landfill Wood Waste Area – open M-Sat 8am-4pm. Please, no plastic bags. After January 17, trees will be collected as trash if put out on trash day. Artificial Christmas trees and wreaths with metal components can be recycled year-round in the scrap metal area at the Alpha Ridge Landfill Residents’ Convenience Area. For more info, click [here](#).

County’s MIHU Now Accepting Applications – Apply Today!

Looking for affordable housing in Howard County? Howard County Housing has begun accepting applications for the January open enrollment period for the County’s Moderate Income Housing Unit (MIHU) program. The enrollment period ends **Friday, January 31st**. This program is an inclusionary zoning program that requires developers of new housing in certain zoning districts to sell or rent a percentage of the new dwelling units to households of moderate income and at reduced sale prices and rents to income eligible families.

Housing will hold a free “MIHU Buyers and Renters Workshop,” on **Tuesday, January 14 6-7pm** at the Gateway Building, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia. The workshop is FREE, open to the public and will explain the program’s eligibility requirements and application process for prospective homebuyers and renters. Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Maryland and Delaware, Inc. will also be on hand to present information regarding the importance of credit scores for buying or renting a home. For more info or to register for the workshop, contact Howard County Housing’s Homeownership Division at **410-313-6318** and select option 4 or visit their MIHU [website](#).

MD Housing Rehabilitation Program for Homeowners!

Howard County Housing is now accepting applications for the Maryland Housing Rehabilitation Program for Single Family (MHRP-SF). Applications will be available at Housing’s office on the 3rd floor of the Gateway Building, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia.

MHRP-SF is a housing rehabilitation program that preserves and improves single family properties with an emphasis on bringing eligible properties into compliance with applicable building codes and standards. It’s designed to address priority home maintenance items, such as: correcting exterior or interior deficiencies; making accessibility modifications; correcting health and safety violations; improving the homes weatherization and energy conservation; and correcting lead-based paint violations. General improvements, such as small home additions, alterations and carpeting, fences and landscaping, and kitchen, bathroom and closet remodeling, may be considered for financing as well, if all priority home maintenance items are in good condition or have been previously renovated. Swimming pools and recreational facilities are considered luxury items and are not eligible for a MHRP-SF loan.

It also provides HC Housing with the opportunity to assist eligible homeowners in securing low interest loans that cannot exceed 110% of the property’s value and with an interest rate of 4.5%. Loan amounts are based upon the owner-occupants ability to repay the loan.

For more information, contact **Kelly Cimino** at **410-313-6318** and select option 4, or e-mail kcimino@howardcountymd.gov.

ANNOUNCEMENT

blah

blah!

blah

HoCoWSA Seeks Recruits for Watershed Stewards Academy!

Learn all and more you believed imaginable about stormwater runoff, from rooftops, roads, driveways and parking lots, flowing into our counties streams and rivers. If you are passionate about the environment, learn how to design, build and consult on projects for the reduction of sediment, nitrogen, phosphorus and bacteria, and how to decrease grease, trash, pesticides and metals polluting The Chesapeake Bay. Gain firsthand knowledge and engage with a diverse core of esteemed lecturers by being a part of a 15 week period of coursework from **February 7th to May 2, 2014**. Classes are held every **Friday 10am-2pm** at the **University of MD Extension Howard County, 3300 N. Ridge Road, Suite 240 in Ellicott City, MD** and are limited to 20 adults.

Join the movement. Become a leader and learn to solve pollution problems through field trips and a class installation project in May. Detailed information about the HoCoWSA and application can be found [online](#). A \$250 fee is due upon acceptance and scholarships are available. For more info, contact **Barbara Schmeckpeper, Ph.D** at **410-381-5279** or email howardwsa@gmail.com. The deadline to apply is **January 15, 2014**.

blah!

blah

CA Seeks Public Feedback on Comprehensive Plan to Serve Older Adults!

For more than a year, a Columbia Association (CA) has been developing a Comprehensive Plan for Serving the Older Adult Community. Public meetings have been scheduled to gather community feedback and will be held: **Monday, January 13, 2014** at Slayton House, 10400 Cross Fox Ln in Wilde Lake Village Center. The first session is scheduled 10am-12pm; second session will be held 5-7pm with the same content presented at both meetings. For more information, click [here](#) or call David Greisman at **410-423-4103** or email at David.Greisman@ColumbiaAssociation.org.

Tax ID Theft Forum!

With the start of tax season right around the corner, Howard County's **Department of Citizen Services** is encouraging residents to attend its **Tax Identity Theft Forum on Tuesday, January 14 from 7-9 p.m.** at the North Laurel Community Center, 9411 Whiskey Bottom Road in Laurel. The Forum will provide residents with information about how to prevent tax identity theft and the steps to take if their identity is stolen. Admission is free. For more information on the Tax Identity Theft Forum, contact the Office of Consumer Affairs at **410-313-6420** or click [here](#). To request a sign language interpreter or other accommodations to attend this event, call **410-313-6400** by Tuesday, January 7.

HCPSS Curriculum Information Sessions

All HCPSS parents are invited to attend one of four information sessions to learn about the HCPSS math and English/Language Arts curriculum and its alignment to the Common Core State Standards. Join us for interactive sessions to better understand what students in Grades K-12 are learning and how you can help at home.

Mark your calendar for any sessions, to be held from 7-9pm: **January 14, 2014** at Wilde Lake High School, **January 16, 2014** at Howard High School, **January 21, 2014** at Oakland Mills High School or **February 6, 2014** at Glenelg High School. Additional details will be provided in future issues of Weekly News and on the [HCPSS website](#).

Recreation & Parks Advisory Board Wants Your Feedback on East Columbia Library Park Site!

Our Department of Recreation & Parks Advisory Board will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, January 15, 2014 at 7pm** to present the revised athletic field upgrades proposed for the East Columbia Library Park site. Upgrades will include “no spill/glare ball field lighting” and synthetic turf fields, which will provide a safer playing surface, reduce maintenance costs, and improve site utilization. The meeting will be held in the first floor conference room at Recreation & Parks’ HQ Office, 7120 Oakland Mills Road in Columbia. Representatives from the Department of Recreation & Parks will present a summary of this proposal, and the Advisory Board will accept public comments.

Beginning January 1, citizens can sign-up [online](#) to testify in advance or submit or submit online testimony. Residents are reminded that internet testimony is considered public information and, as such, subject to the Maryland Public Information Act. Residents who do not wish to sign-up online will still be able to sign-up in person at the public hearing beginning at 6:30pm. An interpreter for people who have a hearing impairment will be available, if requested 7 working days prior to the meeting. For accommodations, call the Department of Citizen Services at 410-313-6400 (voice) or use Relay (7-1-1) between 8am-5pm, Monday-Friday.

39th Annual Audrey Robbins Humanitarian Awards – Nominate Someone Special TODAY!

ACS is now accepting nominations for its 39th annual Audrey Robbins Humanitarian Awards! Nominees can be volunteers, employees, a team of people who’ve given extraordinary service or a business that has gone beyond the fulfillment of its operation’s needs to provide assistance and other contributions to the county’s nonprofit community. Deadline is **January 15, 2014**. Nomination forms and criteria can be found online at www.acshoco.org and can be submitted by e-mail to maureen.heim@acshoco.org, faxed to: 410-715-9547 or mailed to: ACS, 10480 Little Patuxent Pkwy., Suite 920. Columbia. MD 21044.

“Children On Board” Preschool/Child Care Information Fair!

Mark your calendars! Howard County’s Dept of Citizen Services Preschool/Child Care Information Fair, “Children On Board” will be held **Sunday, January 26th 1-4pm** at Ten Oaks Ballroom, 5000 Signal Bell Lane in Clarksville. Admission is free and fairgoers can gather info on child care, pre-school and summer programs, as well as the opportunity for personal contact with teachers and program directors. Representatives from community service organizations that offer programs and services to Howard County’s young children will also be on hand to provide information to interested parents. Those attending are asked to bring a nonperishable food items to donate to the HC Food Bank. For details, call 410-313-1940 or e-mail children@howardcountymd.gov.

FY15 CSP Grant Applications Now Available!

Are you a nonprofit organization interested in applying for in applying for a Community Service Partnership (CSP) grant with the County in FY15 Budget? The Howard County Department of Citizen Services is now accepting CSP grant applications from 501(c)(3) and 501c4 nonprofit organizations! These funds can help provide support for the delivery of essential human services in the Howard County community. CSP funds may be used for operating expenses to support the ongoing administrative functioning of an agency, project expenses to support the cost of a specific program or service, and/or direct client assistance.

For more information or to obtain a **Request for Grant Application** package, click the following links: [FY15 Application Package](#), [Agency Budget-Expenses](#), [Agency Budget-Revenue](#) or call 410-313-6400. Grant applications are due by **January 31, 2014**. In FY15, two additional grant opportunities have been developed – a one-time grant and an initiative grant: [FY15 One-time funding application](#) or [FY15 Initiative funding application](#).

Columbia Association’s Sister Cities Exchange Program 2014!

The Sister Cities Summer High School Student Exchange is an annual international cultural and linguistic immersion program where Howard County high school students studying Spanish or French (level 3+) spend two weeks during July in one of Columbia’s sister cities: Cergy-Pontoise in France or Tres Cantos in Spain. They are hosted by the family of a French or Spanish student. After returning to the U.S., the Howard County students host their French/Spanish counterparts in their home for another two weeks. There are organized sightseeing trips and group activities for the participants, both in Europe and here, and the students are accompanied by chaperones. The cost of the Exchange includes the program fee and the round trip airfare (purchased by CA). The program fee is \$700 for Columbia residents and \$850 for non-Columbia residents. The round trip airfare in summer 2014 will be between \$1,200 - \$1,500 per participant. There are excellent scholarships available for Columbia residents who qualify. The application deadline is **February 21, 2014**.

An information session for parents and students is scheduled for **Thursday, January 16, 2014 7-8pm** at CA Headquarters, 10221 Wincopin Circle in Columbia. For an application or more information, visit ColumbiaAssociation.org/TeenExchange, or contact Laura Smit at 410-715-3162 or International@ColumbiaAssociation.org.

Recreation & Parks Announce Deer Management Program for 2013-2014!

Howard County's Department of Recreation & Parks has announced its fall/winter schedule of managed deer hunts. These hunts are held in an effort to help maintain a stable, balanced white-tailed deer population in our parks where deer browsing has been shown to reduce biodiversity. The hunting schedule is as follows but can also be accessed online at

www.howardcountymd.gov/deermanagement.htm

Alpha Ridge Park	
Bow & Shotgun	January 22
Blandair Park	
Bow Hunting	February 5 & 12
David Force Park	
Bow & Shotgun	January 15
High Ridge Park	
Shotgun Hunting	January 16 & 29
Middle Patuxent Environmental Area	
Bow & Shotgun	January 23, February 20
Schooley Mill Park	
Shotgun Hunting	January 30; February 6
West Friendship Park (Wounded Soldiers Hunt)	
Bow & Shotgun	February 26

What to Know if You See Snow?

Now that winter has arrived, here are some helpful hints and reminders courtesy of our Department of Public Works:

Getting Plowed In

Tired of getting snowed in by the snow plows? If possible, wait to shovel the end of your driveway until the plows pass. Or try clearing a "pocket" next to your driveway along the shoulder or curb – about the length of a parking space – ahead of your driveway. When the plow passes, the angle of the snow blade will naturally dump most of the load in the pocket instead of your driveway.

Cars Parked on Public Streets

Parked cars are one of the biggest challenges of our snow crews. County residential streets are plowed one time per snowstorm. Once the county crews clear the snow off your street, they will not return to plow your street a second time. Please park your cars in driveways and off public streets so plows can clear as much snow as possible.

Cars Parked in Cul-de-Sacs

County truck drivers cannot safely push the snow in cul-de-sacs where cars are parked. Rather than risk damaging county or private vehicles, the driver will leave and come back later after he finishes the rest of his route.

Guard Against Flooding

Uncover and clear area around fire hydrants and storm drain inlets. If snow melts and rainwater can't flow away, it could cause street icing and basement flooding. After large snow storms, water main breaks may occur. If you see large volumes of water flowing down the street, it could be a water main break. This should be reported to the Bureau of Utilities at **410-313-4900**.

Clearing Your Sidewalks

"It is the duty and obligation of the owner of property abutting a sidewalk in a public right-of-way to remove snow from the sidewalk within 48 hours after the snow has fallen." (Howard County Code, Section 18.402(h). If you are willing to help remove snow for seniors or physically disabled individuals in your neighborhood, please call the Office on Aging – Maryland Access Point at 410-313-5980 to volunteer for the Snow Patrol Program. Your thoughtfulness can make a big difference to someone who might otherwise be unable to cope. If you need assistance with snow removal and are 60 or older, or younger than 60 with a physical disability, and a resident of Howard County, you may register as a Snow Patrol client. New clients are put on a waiting list and are contacted only if a Snow Patrol volunteer in his/her area becomes available. To register as a client, call **410-313-5980**.

Did It Snow On...

"Trash" Day? If it snows on your trash day, put your trash out for collection as usual – before 6am. If trash collection has been canceled for the day, the trash contractors will pick up trash the next work day if roads are passable.

"Recycling" Day? If it snows on your Recycling day, and recycling has been canceled for the day, recycled will be picked up the following week. To find out if trash or recycling collections were canceled for the day, call **410-313-SORT (7678)**.

Please be patient...

During inclement weather, trash and recycling trucks must travel slowly and safely. Remember, the contractors have until 7pm to pick up your trash and recyclables. Questions about snow removal? Email publicworks@howardcountymd.gov.

Calling All Youth and Teens!

Get involved and be a part of the solution. Have fun and make new friends! Columbia Association's Teen and Middle School Advisory Committee is now seeking young individuals to attend monthly meetings and help get involved in their community by planning, organizing and implementing positive programs and activities for their peers.

High School Students (Ages 13-19) and Middle School Students (Ages 11-13) are invited to call **410-992-3726** or email CA Teens@ColumbiaAssociation.org to sign-up. Meetings are the Third Thursday of the month 6:30-8pm at the Youth & Teen Center & The Barn in the Village of Oakland Mills, 5853 Robert Oliver Place in Columbia.

CA Pathway App Available!

It is now even easier than ever for Columbia residents to enjoy the community's signature 93.5-mile pathway system. Columbia Association (CA) is introducing two new tools for pedestrians, joggers and bicyclists: a smartphone app for iPhone and Android users; and pathway signage, the first of which has been installed between Lake Kittamaquundi and Wilde Lake.

The smartphone app is free and can be downloaded at <http://www.columbiaassociation.org/content/getinformed/CA/CApath.cfm> or by searching your app store for "CA Pathways." Its map shows pathways, sidewalks, tunnels, playgrounds and tot lots, parks, playing fields, wooded areas, CA facilities, buildings and even golf course fairways. Speak-up, visit InspireColumbia.com and share your views on a number of topics of interest to Columbia residents.

Homeless Gazette!

As an elected official and advocate to end homelessness, I'm thrilled to partner with the Route 1 Day Resource Center to put on the Hope for Homeless 5k. I'd like to share with you the Homeless Gazette which highlights stories and touching information from clients of the Day Center that I hope you find inspiring. I hope you will consider contributing to the Day Center and to their cause in their future. You can find the latest December edition [here](#) and view the archive editions [here](#). Here is a [list](#) of their needs if you're able to donate.

Hunger-Free Howard!

Across Howard County, faith-based communities, clubs, organizations, schools and associations are choosing to be a part of the Hunger Free initiative to support the Howard County Food Bank, administered by Community Action Council of Howard County. HOW IT WORKS: Each month, the group chooses 1 item that they would like to ask their members to bring to donate to the Food Bank. In January, it might be cereal; in February, a jar of peanut butter.

If you are part of an organization or as an individual who would like to mobilize members to donate food, please contact **Lisa Clossin**, Volunteer Coordinator at 410-313-0703 or email lclossin@cac-hc.org.

Exciting Youth Opportunities to Stay Active and Involved!

One of my missions is to provide awareness of programs within Howard County that provide a positive outlet for our youth. This allows them to channel their inner talent and participate in positive activities. Listed below you will find helpful links for parents and youth.

4H Club: For youth grades 3+. Meets **2nd Friday of the month** at The Other Barn **3:30-5pm**. Call **410-992-3726** for more info

Art Attack Creative after-school enrichment program from the Columbia Art Center. Meets **1st and 2nd Mondays**.

Registration/Fees may apply. Call **410-992-3726**.

Columbia Teen Center http://www.columbiaassociation.com/content/getinvolved/teens/teen_center.cfm or 410-992-3726

Howard County Library www.hclibrary.org/index.php?page=22

Voices For Change <http://www.facebook.com/HCV4C#!/HCV4C/info> or email MMekelburg7@verizon.net

I encourage you to share this information with friends, families, neighbors and most importantly, your children.

Make a Difference In a Student's Life... A-Ok Mentors Needed!

A-OK (Assist Our Kids) Mentoring-Tutoring, Inc. is now recruiting adult volunteers to be mentor-tutors to HCPSS students who need extra support and encouragement to succeed. Volunteers meet with students individually or in small groups, during the school day and in after school programs. A-OK seeks dependable community members who can commit to one hour/week for one school year.

Participating elementary schools are: Atholton, Bryant Woods, Cradlerock, Deep Run, Forest Ridge, Guilford, Longfellow, Phelps Luck, Running Brook and Stevens Forest. There are also limited opportunities to meet with older students. For more info, call Chaya Kaplan at aokmentor@gmail.com or call 410-730-6030.

"Your Local Career Connection" Helps In Your Search For Employment!

Howard County's Office of Workforce Development is here for you! The center is geared towards meeting the workforce and employment needs of businesses and job seekers in the 21st century labor market. They provide companies and individuals ranging from professional, technical and managerial to entry level. It offers residents a variety of tools to aid in a job search. The full service center is equipped with computers, fax machines, telephones, internet access and copiers – all to assist you with your employment search. Customized recruitment events are held for businesses and space is available to use for interviewing.

For more details, click [here](#) or call 410-290-2620. The calendar of events is [online](#).

Financial Assistance Corner

We are experiencing an unprecedented economic recession and while Howard County may be consistently identified as one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, our residents and families are feeling the squeeze of this economic crisis. I receive a lot of calls to my office asking for referrals and county assistance so I wanted to take a moment and dedicate a section in my Newsletter identifying resources to help our residents save money.

TAX CREDITS: The most quick and efficient way to reduce your expenses is to consider the tax credits available to you as Howard County residents. For your convenience, I have listed examples below as well as their respective online application; however you can find a complete list and instructions on how to apply at <http://countyofhowardmd.us/Services.aspx?id=6442458618> or by calling 410-313-4076. Please note that some of these credits are based upon fund availability, so please contact the office directly for the most up-to-date information.

Livable Home Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Senior Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1492>

Homeowners Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1558>

Homestead Tax Credit: <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/homestead.html>

Energy Conservation Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442455147>

Daycare Provider Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Amateur Sports Athletic Fields Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Surviving Spouse of Fallen Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Community Associations Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Renovation of Historic Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Trash Collection Fee Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Avoid Healthcare Scams!

The Howard County Department of Citizen Services is warning both Medicare recipients and residents who qualify for health coverage through the new health care exchanges of misleading and sometimes illegal offers of help that are cropping up in Howard County. The Department has already received several reports of misleading and illegal conduct related to both Medicare open enrollment and enrollment for health coverage under the federal Affordable Care Act.

The Office on Aging's "Avoiding Medicare Scams and Frauds" fact sheet, available at www.howardcountymd.gov/avoidmedicarefraud.htm, provides info on this and other Medicare provisions designed to protect consumers from misleading sales practices. Consumers can also call the County's State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) office at 410-313-7392 to report suspicious health insurance offers and/or to receive free and unbiased help in deciding what, if any, supplemental insurance programs are right for them.

In addition, the County's Office of Consumer Affairs recently received an e-mail from an insurance agent offering to help people "obtain affordable health insurance." The e-mail, however, implied that unless consumers sign up for coverage by January 1, 2014 they will be charged a penalty. In fact, penalties will not be assessed until the end of the enrollment period on March 31, 2014. Certified navigators are prohibited from charging for their services and from offering private insurance products while helping clients enroll with an exchange.

The Office of Consumer Affairs' "Avoiding ID Theft and Fraud in the New Health Insurance Marketplace" fact sheet, available at www.howardcountymd.gov/avoidIDtheftfraud.htm, provides consumers with tips on avoiding scams and dispels misconceptions people may have about obtaining coverage from the Maryland health exchanges. Consumers who receive suspicious offers of help to enroll in the exchanges can contact the Office of Consumer Affairs at 410-313-6420.

Health Care Options For You or Your Family!



The "Door to HealthCare" provides for the consolidation of applications and application processes for the numerous health programs available for those who are under/uninsured. Individuals sit down with a counselor or work alone at a kiosk to enter personal data (including: family makeup, income, etc.) which will determine the programs for which you and/or family members are eligible. The information will quickly be transferred electronically into the proper application and the process is complete. Services provided include: MCHP, MA, PAC and the Healthy Howard Health Plan.

"The Door to HealthCare" is located to the rear of 7178 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia, MD. For further information, call 410-988-3737.

Give the Gift of Independence!

Neighbor Ride launched its volunteer-based transportation service in 2004 with the mission to decrease isolation and improve the quality of life for Howard County's older residents. Today, its dedicated volunteers provide an average of 1,000 trips per month for medical appointments, shopping, social outings, personal care and business, religious services, volunteer activities and other day-to-day needs.

YOU can give seniors the gift of independence by volunteering as a Neighbor Ride driver. Flexible and rewarding daytime, evening and weekend opportunities are available. No set schedule is required. Drivers simply choose to provide rides that are convenient to their homes, offices and daily routines. Parent volunteers are welcome and encouraged to bring their children along for a wonderful experience. Please contact **Patrice Cerwonka, Colleen Konstanzer or Rosemary Noble** at 410-884-RIDE (7433) or email volunteer@neighborride.org for more information.

Foreign Born Information and Referral Network!

The Foreign Born Information and Referral Network, 5999 Harpers Farm Road, Suite 200-E in Columbia needs Spanish-speaking volunteers to greet clients, answer basic questions, make appointments and support the staff. Hours are **9am-1pm or 1-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday**. Other times may be considered. For more information, call 410-992-1923 x 14.

Medicare Patients – Looking for a Local Doctor!

The Medicare.gov site is the place to find information about Medicare. The webpage provides detailed information about the basics of Medicare, resources, preventative health care and much more. If you're looking for a local doctor who accepts Medicare, click [here](#). Fill in your zipcode and any preferences you might have and you will instantly be given a list of providers in your area! For more info, call 1-800-MEDICARE.

Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Residents 62 and Older!

The Howard County Office on Aging, through Maryland Access Point (MAP), is offering Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Maryland residents ages 62 and older who are considering this as an option. The counseling is targeted to seniors who may be able to pay for their everyday expenses but are struggling to cover the costs of health care, home repairs and modifications, increased property taxes and other unexpected expenses.

To schedule a counseling session or learn more about the costs and features of a reverse mortgage, call MAP of Howard County's toll free number: 1-800-506-5806.

"Guaranteed Ride Home" Comes to Howard County!

A program that gives a **FREE** ride home to commuters who travel to work via mass transit, car-pooling or walking at least twice a week is coming to Howard County. "Guaranteed Ride Home" offers regular commuters a free ride home in a taxi or rental car up to four times a year and is funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation.

To be eligible to participate in the program, commuters must register [online](#) or call 1-800-745-RIDE (7433).



Start a Neighborhood Watch Program in Your Community!

The Neighborhood Watch Program involves the joint efforts of the Howard County Police Department and the community designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation and encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors.

For more information, please contact the Howard County Police Department at 410-313-2200.

Alzheimer's Support Groups in Howard County!

Howard County proudly offers several Alzheimer's Support Groups at various locations throughout the County during days and times that are geared at accommodating the needs of those impacted by Alzheimer's. Pre-screening is required. For support group locations in Howard County, click [here](#). For more information on the Alzheimer's Association, call 1-800-272-3900 or visit www.alz.org/maryland.

In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency serving Howard County and Central Maryland and empowers people in crisis to make positive changes by offering professional 24-hour crisis intervention, shelter and outreach services.

Grassroots provides programs and services including a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, Maryland Crisis Hotline, Walk-in Counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention, outreach and education, a 33-bed Family Shelter, an 18-bed Men's Shelter, a Motel Shelter, Cold Weather Shelter and Day Resource Center.

Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. is located at **6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044**. For more information, please call **410-531-6006** or visit their website online at www.grassrootscrisis.org. The 24-hour line is **410-531-6677** and the MD Crisis Hotline is **1-800-422-0009**.

Howard County Safety... Helpful Hints!

- **Experiencing an Emergency?** Dial 9-1-1
- **Want to report an incident, non-emergency?** Call 410-313-2200
- **Need to report drug activity?** Call 410-290-3784 or email ACunningham@howardcountymd.gov
- **Want to make an anonymous tip** (e.g. child abuse, violence, gangs, gambling, school incidents, underage drinking, damage to property etc.)? Call 410-313-7867 or email GangTips@howardcountymd.gov
- **Want to report gun crimes?** Call 410-313-7867 or email CToler@howardcountymd.gov.
- **Do you need Victim Assistance?** Call 410-313-3712 or email KMasterson@howardcountymd.gov
- **Interested in a FREE Home Security Survey?** Call 410-313-4795 and leave a message to make an appointment. For more info, call the Special Operations Bureau at 410-313-3758 or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/aboutpolice.htm>
- **Want to start a Neighborhood Watch?** Call the Community Services Section at 410-313-4780.
- **Looking to prevent Auto Theft?** Helpful tips available at <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/departments.aspx?ID=6442451452>
- **Want to report an animal cruelty incidence or report unwanted pets, endangered animals, etc.?** Call 410-313-2780, email animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/animalcontrol.htm>
- **Are speeders in your neighborhood?** Consider the SMART Program initiative. Info available at www.co.ho.md.us/Police/pd_smartprogram.htm
- **Looking for personal safety tips?** Visit www.co.ho.md.us/police/pd_personalsafety.htm
- **Interested in a Police Ride-Along?** Call 410-313-2208 for an application
- **Need a HCPD Spanish line?** Call 410-313-7807.
- **Interested in volunteering with the HCPD?** Call 410-313-2255
- **Interesting in HCPD Recruitment?** Call 410-313-4273.

Recycling... Do's And Don'ts!

Ever wondered what is considered recyclable and what is not? You may be surprised to find out. For a complete list, click [here](#) or call **410-313-6444**. If it snows on your recycling day and recycling has been cancelled for the day, recyclables may be picked up on a slide schedule. For the most up-to-date information, call **410-313-7678** or go [online](#).

Transparency in Our Government!

If you believe there has been an instance of fraud, waste, and/or abuse in our government, we want to hear from you! Allegations of Fraud, Waste and Abuse in Howard County Government should be submitted to the Howard County Auditor's Office. All submittals are encrypted and password protected for security. We treat all allegations in a confidential matter and we'll do our very best to safeguard your identity!

To report an allegation, visit <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/DisplayPrimary.aspx?ID=4294969242>. If you do not wish to disclose your identity, you may remain anonymous; however, you should be aware that remaining anonymous may preclude a thorough investigation of your allegation due to insufficient information.

For more information, email hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov or call **410-313-2005**.

View the Council's Current Legislation and Calendar and Stay Informed!

The County Council is responsible for adopting laws within Howard County. The legislative progress generally follows a monthly cycle. The Council is currently on recess for the month of August. A list of upcoming meetings can be found [online](#).

I Want to Hear From You!

This is your opportunity to stay informed and get involved! Your comments are always welcome as the County Council reviews legislation. You may testify in person or simply submit your testimony by email to Councilmail@howardcountymd.gov or fax 410-313-3297.

All legislative public hearings will take place in the **Board of Education, Board Room A, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042**.

Dr. Calvin Ball
Howard County Council
[District 2](#)
[Email Me](#)
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

"I think there's no higher calling in terms of a career than public service, which is a chance to make a difference in people's lives and improve the world."

~ Jack Lew